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## G E O L O G Y .

GLACIAL FOSSILS IN MAINE.—The rocks in that part of Maine, lying along the coast between the Penobscot and Kennebec Rivers, are so folded as to form a series of N. N. E.—S. S. W. ridges with smaller plications between them. As the land rose after the melting of the glaciers, sedimentation seems to have gone on rapidly and animal life to have been abundant, while the water level was yet a hundred or two feet higher than at present. The principal folds of the rock strata then formed low hill ranges capped with glacial detritus, and in the fiords between these were accumulated immense quantities of fine clay (light gray, as derived from light colored gneisses and schists). This is usually separated from the bottom rock by a little more or less stratified gravel. As the clay neared the surface of the water, it became more sandy, of course, and passed occasionally into beds of gravel, particularly where the current was strong. These deposits finally emerged, and their record is now partly obliterated by running streams. The clay is found to contain small branches of silicified wood, and the upper strata contain beach shells.

In the town of Nobleboro, twenty or twenty-five miles from the coast, in the valley of the Damariscotta River (Lincoln Co.), the relations of these strata are well shown by a cutting of the Knox and Lincoln Railroad, which has now, I believe, a station about forty rods southwest of it. Nobleboro village is a mile south. The cut is twenty or thirty rods long through a hillside and is thirty-nine feet deep in the middle. Between the hill (which slopes off to a swamp,) and the station, there is a ledge of striated and water-worn gneiss, rather lower than the railroad grade. In the cut above the grade level are—

7. Soil with grass.
6. Sand and gravel curved over the lower strata parallel to the top of the hill.
5. Pebbly gravel, 2–4 feet from top of hill.
4. Sand and gravel.
3. Gravel and clay merging and alternating.
2. Brown clay sandier and drier than No. 1.
1. Blue clay several feet deep.

No. 1 contained decaying blades of eel grass quite abundantly; and the remains of several kinds of shells which were much decayed and generally mere casts; the first two kinds only have the shell solid. *Buccinum undatum* (two specimens); *Fusus decemcostatus* (8); Pecten (two species; one *P. islandicus*); *Serripes Groenlandica* (10); numerous specimens of *Mya arenaria* and *Mytilus edulis* (3); *Leda*, a few small decayed valves, possibly of *Macoma*; also what appeared to be the shell of a small crustacean, not an inch long.

In No. 3, the pebbles were conglomerated with oxide of iron in one place.

No. 5, a loose narrow stratum, evidently deposited in shallow water, held many broken and worn shells of clam, mussel, *Macoma fusca* and *Leda Jacksoni*.

No. 6 seems to mark the emergence of the beds, showing a change in the water courses produced by the elevation of some higher land than at this point, from the water. — PAUL SHERMAN.

## ANTHROPOLOGY.

PREHISTORIC CULTURE OF FLAX.—Dr. Oswald Heer, the eminent botanist, and one who has devoted so much attention to the structure and history of fossil plants, publishes an article upon flax and its culture among the ancients, especially the prehistoric races of Europe. His memoir may be summarized as follows: First, flax has been cultivated in Egypt for five thousand years and that it was and is one of the most generally diffused plants of that country. It occupied a similar position in ancient Babylonia, in Palestine, and on the Black Sea. It occurred in Greece during the prehistoric period, and at an early date was carried into Italy, while its cultivation in Spain was probably originated by the Phœnicians and Carthagenians. Second, it is also met with in the oldest Swiss lacustrine villages, while, at the same time no hemp nor fabrics manufactured from wool are there to be found. This is considered a remarkable fact, since the sheep was one of the oldest domestic animals, and was known during the stone period. The impossibility of shearing the fleece by means of stone or bone implements is supposed to have been the reason why woollen fabrics were not used. It is thought probable that the skin, with